



LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION OF NAPA COUNTY

Policy on Municipal Service Reviews

I. Background

The Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 requires the Commission to prepare municipal service reviews in conjunction with its mandate to review and update each local agency's sphere of influence every five years as necessary. The legislative intent of the municipal service review process is to inform the Commission with regard to the availability, capacity, and efficiency of governmental services provided within its jurisdiction prior to making sphere of influence determinations. Municipal service reviews must designate the geographic area in which the governmental service or services are under evaluation. Municipal service reviews must also include determinations addressing the governance factors prescribed under Government Code Section 56430 and any other matters relating to service provision as required by Commission policy.

II. Purpose

The purpose of these policies is to guide the Commission in conducting municipal service reviews. This includes establishing consistency with respect to the Commission's approach in the (a) scheduling, (b) preparation, and (c) adoption of municipal service reviews.

III. Objective

The objective of the Commission in conducting municipal service reviews is to proactively and comprehensively evaluate the level, range, and structure of governmental services necessary to support orderly growth and development in Napa County. Underlying this objective is to develop and expand the Commission's knowledge and understanding of the current and planned provision of local governmental services in relationship to the present and future needs of the community. The Commission will use the municipal service reviews not only to inform subsequent sphere of influence determinations but also to identify opportunities for greater coordination and cooperation between providers as well as possible government structure changes.

IV. Municipal Service Review Policies

A. Scheduling

Beginning in 2008, and every five years thereafter, the Commission will hold a public hearing to adopt a study schedule calendaring municipal service reviews over the next five year period. Public hearing notices will be circulated 21 days in advance to all local agencies as well as posted on the Commission website. The Commission will generally schedule municipal service reviews in conjunction with sphere of influence updates. The Commission, however, may schedule municipal service reviews independent of sphere of influence updates. The Commission may also amend the study schedule to add, modify, or eliminate calendared municipal service reviews to address changes in circumstances, priorities, and available resources.

In adopting a study schedule, the Commission may calendar three types of municipal service reviews. These three types of municipal service reviews are 1) service-specific, 2) region-specific, and 3) agency-specific and are summarized below.

- A service-specific municipal service review will examine particular governmental services across multiple local agencies on a countywide basis.
- A region-specific municipal service review will examine the range of governmental services provided by local agencies within a particular area.
- An agency-specific municipal service review will examine the breadth of governmental services provided by a particular local agency.

B. Preparation

The Commission will encourage input among affected local agencies in designing the municipal service reviews to enhance the value of the process among stakeholders and capture unique local conditions and circumstances effecting service provision. This includes identifying appropriate performance measures as well as regional growth and service issues transcending political boundaries. The Commission will also seek input from the affected local agencies in determining final geographic area boundaries for the municipal service reviews. Factors the Commission may consider in determining final geographic area boundaries include, but are not limited to, spheres of influence, jurisdictional boundaries, urban growth boundaries, general plan designations, and topography.

The Commission will prepare the municipal service reviews but may contract with outside consultants to assist staff as needed. Data collection is an integral component of the municipal service review process and requires cooperation from local agencies. The Commission will strive to reduce the demands on local agencies in the data collection process by using existing information resources when available and adequate. All service related information compiled by local agencies will be independently reviewed and verified by the Commission.

Each municipal service review will generally be prepared in three distinct phases. The first phase will involve the preparation of an administrative report and will include a basic outline of service information collected and analyzed by staff. The administrative report will be made available to each affected local agency for their review and comment to identify any technical corrections. The second phase will involve the preparation of a draft report that will be presented to the Commission for discussion at a public meeting. The draft report will incorporate any technical corrections identified during the administrative review and include determinations. The draft report will be made available to the public for review and comment for a period of no less than 21 days. The third phase will involve the preparation of a final report and will address any new information or comments generated during the public review period and will be presented to the Commission as part of a public hearing.

In addition to making determinations on various factors as prescribed by Government Code Section 56430, the Commission will additionally make determinations with respect to the relationship with regional growth goals and policies.

C. Adoption

The Commission will complete each scheduled municipal service review by formally receiving a final report and adopting a resolution codifying its determinations as part of public hearing.

Summary of changes:

- *Removed repeating the specific government factors required for review under Government Code Section as they can (and have) change over time.*